

some resemblance to *C. collaris* (v. Linstow, 1873), but differs from it in the shape of the spicule and the absence of a spine on its tip.

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HERPETOLOGY.—*A new Philippine snake of the genus Calamaria*. ALAN E. LEVITON, Natural History Museum, Stanford University. (Communicated by Doris M. Cochran.)

Several years ago while identifying the snakes collected by Dr. Albert W. Herre during his Philippine Expedition of 1940, I noted a specimen belonging to the genus *Calamaria* that was not identifiable with any previously described species, and appeared to be a new form. I decided not to describe the new snake immediately but to wait until it would be possible to review the entire genus, rather than add to the existing confusion. Plans were outlined to study the genus as a whole, but inasmuch as completion of a generic review must now be postponed because of inadequacy of available material, it seems best to publish a description of this snake without further delay.

*Calamaria zamboangensis*, n. sp.

*Holotype*.—SU reptile register no. 13476, male, collected by Dr. Albert W. Herre, at Zamboanga, Mindanao Island, Philippine Islands, September 2, 1940, during the Herre Oriental Expedition of 1940.

*Paratype*.—SU 13477; same data as holotype except as otherwise mentioned.

*Diagnosis*.—This species can be distinguished from all previously described forms of *Calamaria* by the combination of the following characteristics: Mental shield not in contact with anterior genials, diameter of eye less than its distance to mouth, frontal only twice as broad as supra-

ocular, preocular and postocular shields present, anal entire. *C. zamboangensis* is distinguished from *albopunctata* by a considerably lower ventral count (201-203 V. in *zamboangensis*, 247 V. in *albopunctata*), and from *quinquetaeniata* by a higher ventral and lower subcaudal count (*zamboangensis*, 201-203 V., 12-13 C.; *quinquetaeniata*, 178 V., 26 C.). It differs from *egregia* in the smaller proportions of the frontal shield width vs. supraocular shield width, the smaller number of subcaudal shields, five supralabials, and by the subequal size of the third and fourth supralabials (*egregia* has the frontal shield three times the width of the supraocular, 16 subcaudal shields, 6 supralabials, and the fourth upper labial smaller than the third); and from *brachyura* by the smaller eye and different coloration.

*Description*.—Diameter of the eye distinctly less than its distance from the mouth; rostral broader than deep; internasals absent. The frontal is slightly longer than wide, twice as broad as the supraocular, somewhat shorter than the parietals. There are five supralabials, the third and fourth entering the eye and subequal in size. The first and second upper labials in contact with the prefrontal, the fifth with the parietal. Nostril in a small nasal; loreal absent; 1 preocular and 1 postocular; temporals absent. The mental shield is not in contact with the anterior chin shields, the first infralabial meeting its fellow behind the mental. There are five infra-

labials, the first three in contact with the anterior chin-shield; the posterior chin-shields smaller than and in contact with the anterior shields.

Ventrals 201-203 (holotype 201); subcaudals 12-13 (holotype 12); anal single; scales in 13-13-13 rows.

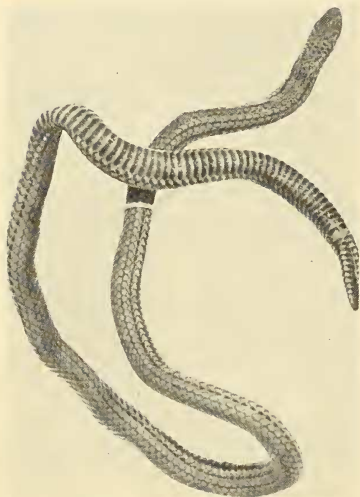


FIG. 1.—Holotype of *Calamaria zamboangensis*, S.U. no. 13476. (Photograph by Antenor L. de Carvalho and the author.)

*Coloration* (specimen preserved in formalin and then in alcohol).—The ground color is light brown; there are six dark brown stripes dorsally formed by a series of coalescing spots. These stripes are distributed as follows: One between the first and second scale rows, one on the third row, one between the fourth and fifth rows. Immediately behind the head and extending for about one fifth of the body length there are two additional stripes (longitudinal series of spots), one on the sixth scale row and one on the eighth row, but these fade out rapidly on the body. The head is more or less uniform brown, this color extending onto the upper edges of the supralabials; the remainder of the supralabials are yellowish brown.

Ventrally the throat and anterior portion of the body are uniform light yellow-brown. About one-fifth of the body length posterior to the head the inner edges of the ventrals become darker brown while the outer edges remain a light color. This pattern extends onto the tail. There is a median dark line running down the length of the tail.

*Measurements* (holotype).—Total length 248 mm, snout to vent 237 mm, tail length 11 mm.

*Remarks*.—The paratype agrees with the holotype in the color pattern, although its color has faded considerably.

*C. zamboangensis* appears to be closely related to *C. egregia* Barbour but can readily be distinguished from this species as shown in the diagnosis. With the accumulation of additional evidence this new species may prove to be conspecific with *egregia*, but unfortunately the lack of material prevents the determination of the exact relationship between these two species.

There are three other species of *Calamaria* to which the new form bears a resemblance—*everetti*, *virgulata*, and *occipitalis*. However, these three species can be distinguished from *zamboangensis* as follows: *everetti* has the diameter of the eye greater than its distance from the mouth, *virgulata* has the diameter of the eye equal to its distance from the mouth and a somewhat different coloration, and *occipitalis* which has a divided anal plate.

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